banks after 31-3-85 for opening bank offices at rural and semi-urban centres under the previous policy were not considered by them for licensing and are not being treated as pending. Under the current branch licensing policy for 1985-90 the task of identifying potential growth centres requiring banking facilities has been entrusted to the Groups set up for the purpose by the lead banks. The lists of identified centres are then required to be finalised by the concerned State Government and these have to be forwarded to the RBI for its consideration for issue of licences for opening bank offices in accordance with the branch licensing policy. The process of identification of centres is in various stages of progress in the different States. RBI would consider the lists of identified centres when such lists are forwarded by the State Governments in accordance with the branch licensing policy.

Import of certain drugs under OGL

1127. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Banzophenone, Aminophyllina, Acetyle Sulphanyl Chloride, Calcium Citrate, Calcium Gluconate, 16-DPA. DHA Acetate. Dextrose amydrous, Erythromycin ethyl succineate, Estrone, Salbutamol, Frusemide, Hydrogen Peroxide, Mandlelic Acid Netrazepam. Salicylic Acid, Magnesium Carbonate and Mandelamin are allowed for import under Open General Licence as per the Import Policy;

(b) if so, what are the basis on which the import of such drugs and drug intermediates has been allowed;

(c) whether it is a fact that all the above items are produced indigenously and indigenous capacities are lying idle at present;

(d) whether indigenous production and installed capacities are considered before inclusion of items under OGL; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) These drugs are allowed to be imported under OGL by actual users (industrial) only.

(b) to (e) The policy for the import of various items including drugs is decided in consultation with the concerned technical authorities keeping in view county's demand, production, installed capacity, prices and other relevant factors.

There is a standing arrangement to review the policy from time and corrective measures are taken as and when the situation so warrants. These changes are notifed by means of public notices published in Official Gazette, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Import of Diosgenin

1128. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of Diosgenin has been restricted under the Limited Permissible Limit of the current Import Policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Diosgenin is the basic raw material for the production of Estrone, 16-DPA, DHA Acetate, Androstenonolone and Androstenedione which are allowed for import under Open General Licence;

(c) what are the criteria for inclusion of these items under Open General Licence;

(d) what is the justification of inclusion of the above items under Open General Licence when the basis raw material, i.e. Diosgenin is covered under Limited Permissible List and the capacities for production of these intermediates are lying idle with indigenous producers; and

(e) what is Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.